(A)

I think the main question is ‘What defines the popularity of programs/systems?’

1. The programs/systems, many people are using,

2. Or the programs/systems, many people downloaded/purchased,

3. Or the programs/systems, many people are talking about.

All three of the above or any combination of them can be measured to decide the popularity of programs/systems. Of course, since the term ‘popularity’ is not quantitative, it is impossible to change perfectly that value to a number. But, we can still try to rank them.

In this view DB-engines site’s method looks quite reasonable. It ranked the popularity of programs (DB) depending on diverse quantity measures like number of mentions of the system on Google, Bing and the frequency of discussions about the system. One thing I want to know is what the weight of each measure was when they tallied the total number. This can make a big difference. For example, let’s say the number of mentions of PostgreSQL on Google is 1000, and on Indeed site, the number of PostgreSQL jobs is 100. In this case, they cannot add two numbers simply and say PostgreSQL is 1100 point. But, the site does not mention about this. It just said how it ranked the systems in the same category.

Meanwhile, the rank of Redmonk site is based on only Github and Stackoverflow. These sites could be biased to certain programs. The Redmonk’s method is not delicate. Regardless, I think this rank shows approximate popularity of programs.

I, however, think that we should just get the numbers from Google, Bing and Job openings instead of getting numbers from all sites including Twitter and Stackoverflow. If those numbers are counted in addition to the search engines, it has potential danger to be counted double. In addition, the general technical sites such as Stackoverflow could be biased to certain systems and programs, since many programmers are using their user group sites over general technical sites. Also, as I mentioned above, including many measures has a problem of giving a weight on each measure. So, I believe it is good to reduce the number of measures if possible.

Using Job openings as a measure is preferable to see the stream of popularity. It can show us how many people or companies are using the programs or systems.

The advantage of my approach is reducing work and reducing error of the weight between each measure, though, the problem of weight still remains. As I mentioned at the beginning, for vagueness of popularity, there is no perfect answer, just *close* to perfect one.

(B)

When I worked in a Korean state-run company, there was a system to assess the team accomplishment every year by the government. How effectively and efficiently the team operated the project was the main measurement. To prove this, each team did extra work collecting data and manipulating them. The data is quantitative like how much we reduced our yearly budget, how many reports we produced and what percent of projects is progressed, etc. But, every year after we get the incentive based on the assessment, there are always complaints. How can we compare the teams’ work since their situations and projects are all different.

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